

Specialist Valentine was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division of the Stryker Brigade Combat Team from Fort Lewis, Washington. Specialist Valentine was killed along with two other soldiers on September 18, 2007, in Muqdadiyah, Iraq, when an IED, an improvised explosive device, detonated near him.

Mr. Speaker, you understand the use of an IED by America's enemy is a coward's way of fighting the war. These enemies rant and rave and preach hate in the name of religion, but they cover their faces with masks and hide in caves and dark, dusty ditches. They are afraid to come out in the open and face the American soldier. So our enemy detonates remote-controlled bombs.

Specialist Donald Valentine III's military roots run deep. His father, Donald II, is a Navy veteran. His brother Daniel, who was 19 at the time, wanted to enlist to be with his brother Donald in Iraq. America owes much to families like the Valentines. Being from a military family, he moved around a lot as a child. He lived in Florida most of his life and also in Idaho, but wanted to be buried in "Big H," as he called Houston, Texas, because of many reasons. One of those reasons was because he spent so much time growing up with his grandparents who live in Houston.

Donald was married for one year to Lucia, who said "Donald had all the qualities any girl would want." She had talked to Donald on their first anniversary, 3 days before his death in Iraq. Specialist Valentine told his family that, "if he did not survive the war, they should stay strong." He was the 91st fallen service member with ties to the Houston area to have been killed in Iraq or Afghanistan.

A statement has been credited to one of Rome's centurions when he told his troops, "How you yet live will echo throughout eternity." Specialist Valentine lived a short but faithful life to the things that were important to him: family and country. He was 21 when he was killed.

Mr. Speaker, General George Patton was right about such warriors. We should thank God that such men as Specialist Donald Valentine III ever lived.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE SALINAS CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Salinas City Elementary School District on their 150th anniversary. SCESD has demonstrated great dedication to our community and invaluable service to children and families of the central coast of California.

Founded in 1868, the SCESD began with nine students and quickly expanded to accommodate the growing Salinas Valley. The district has provided a well-rounded education and a safe learning environment for generations of Central Coast families. Today, it provides free, high quality education to nearly nine thousand students at fourteen public schools.

The district's belief in public education as the foundation of democracy shapes their am-

bition to serve children of all backgrounds regardless of race, economic status, religion or ability. Further, it strives to engage parents and families to create a strong collaborative community to support the educational experiences of their children.

As a district, the SCESD has also made great strides in engaging students with twenty-first century technology. Students in grades third through sixth are assigned their own laptop to complete homework and class assignments, while kindergarten through second grade students use shared iPads to complement their learning experiences. Teachers are also empowered to use digital programs to accompany in-class instruction that has resulted in immense progress for their students.

Through steadfast effort and wise use of resources, the SCESD has facilitated upgrades to numerous school facilities. Seven school sites have recently expanded outdoor playgrounds, sustainability features, equipment and security systems to enhance the educational experiences of students. The SCESD has assuredly continued its tradition of pursuing projects that increase opportunity for the children of the Salinas Valley.

As the Salinas City Elementary School District celebrates its 150 years as a fundamental component of our community, I am proud to commend them on their continued service to the young scholars of the Central Coast. The schools and teachers within this district have undoubtedly created substantial impacts on the lives of our future leaders. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Salinas City Elementary School District on 150 years of excellence.

HONORING TATE RIGBY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tate Rigby. Tate is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 404, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tate has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Tate has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Tate has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Tate partnered with the Missouri Department of Conservation for a trail project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tate for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MELVIN "CORKY" GILLIAM

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2018

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Melvin Gilliam. Mr. Gilliam is a Korean War veteran who served the United States of America honorably.

In 1952, Melvin "Corky" Gilliam said goodbye to his classmates at Chowchilla High and traveled to Fort Ord for induction into the U.S. Army.

Gilliam was designated as a rifleman, and within a short time, he landed at Pusan, Korea. The young private was assigned to the 40th Infantry Division, participating in the Korean War's major battles at Heartbreak Ridge, the Punchbowl, and Sand Bag Castle.

In the following months, the 40th was sent into action along the Main Line of Resistance (MLR) above the 38th Parallel at a place called Sand Bag Castle. The division engaged in heavy fighting, and Private Melvin Gilliam was wounded by shell fragments. While recovering at an aid station, it was discovered that he was only seventeen years old. He was sent to Japan to Camp Drake where he remained until his eighteenth birthday on 4 December 1952. After his return to Korea, Gilliam served as rifleman, carrying the Browning Automatic Rifle and worked as a radio operator with line units.

In July 1953 Gilliam boarded the merchant ship General Miggs for return to the U.S. For the remainder of his three-year enlistment, Gilliam served with the 2nd Division at Fort Lewis, Washington. While at Fort Lewis, his regiment was selected to star in the film "To Hell and Back," the true story of Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier of World War II. Gilliam was able to meet the soldier-actor, and was honored to be part of the film, acting as a German rifleman. Before leaving active duty, Gilliam would also serve with the 7th Armored and the 44th Infantry Divisions.

Melvin Gilliam was discharged as a corporal and served five more years in the Army Reserve. For his service he was awarded the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Korean Service Medal with 3 bronze stars, United Nations Service Medal, ROK Presidential Unit Citation, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. To this day he is very proud to have served his country.

After release from active duty he returned to Chowchilla and worked as a dairyman and in trucking until his retirement. He and his late wife Loretta made their home in Chowchilla. He has four children, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

He has been active in the community for more than a half-century as a member of the First Baptist Church, Life Member of Chowchilla VFW Post 9896, Life Member of American Legion Post 148, a member of the Military Order of the Cooties of the U.S., Lions Club International, Free and Accepted Masons of Chowchilla, Scottish Rite of Freemasonry—32nd Degree, Tehran Shriners, the Noble Nobles Club of Tehran Temple, and E Clampus Vitus.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the service of Melvin